

Focus Area 15: Injury and Violence Prevention

Objective 15-3 targets a reduction in the firearms-related death rate to 4.1 per 100,000 population.

California's age-adjusted death rates for firearms-related deaths were 9.2 per 100,000 population in 2000, 9.5 in 2001, and 9.6 in 2002 and 2003 (Figure 15-3, Table 15-3). California's firearms-related death rates are significantly higher than the HP2010 objective, and moving away from the target of 4.1 per 100,000 population.

California data by race and ethnicity show that Blacks/African Americans had the highest age-adjusted firearms-related death rates: 24.7 per 100,000 in 2000; 25.8 in 2001; 28.8 in 2002; and 26.7 in 2003. The next highest death rates were reported for Whites (8.4 per 100,000 in 2000, 8.7 in 2001, and 8.4 in 2002 and 2003), followed by American Indians/Alaska Natives (8.7 per 100,000 in 2002), by Hispanics/Latinos (7.6 per 100,000 in 2000, 7.9 in 2001, 7.5 in 2002, and 8.0 in 2003), and the "Multirace" population (6.0 per 100,000 in 2003). These rates are significantly higher than the HP2010 target of 4.1 per 100,000 population, and this objective is not being achieved for these racial and ethnic groups. Death rates for Asians (3.3 per 100,000 in 2000, 3.2 in 2001, 3.5 in 2002, and 3.9 in 2003), although increasing, were still below the HP2010 target. Firearms-related death rates for American Indians/Alaska Natives (except in 2002), for Pacific Islanders, and for the "Multirace" populations (except 2003) were unreliable due to the small number of events and are not reported.

Age-adjusted firearms-related death rates for males (16.5 per 100,000 population in 2000, 17.1 in 2001, 17.2 in 2002, and 17.3 in 2003) are increasing, and are significantly higher than those for females (2.3 per 100,000 for 2000-2002, 2.1 in 2003). This HP2010 objective is being achieved for females, but not for males.

For more information on firearms-related injuries in California, visit the Epidemiology and Prevention for Injury Control (EPIC) Web site at:

<http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/epicdata/default.htm>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 15-3, please visit:

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/15Injury.htm>

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od15.htm>

Figure 15-3
Firearm-Related Death Rates
California, 2000-2003

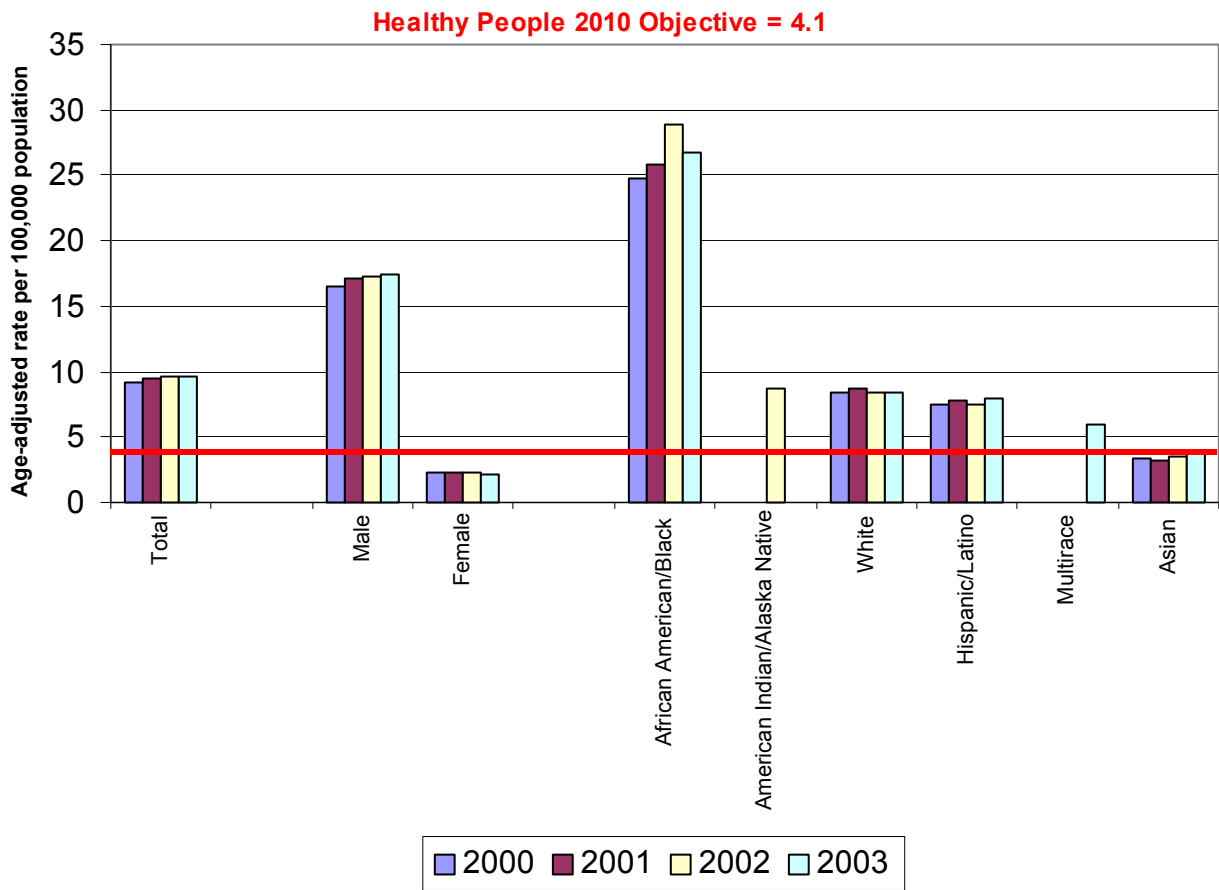


Table 15-3
Firearm-Related Deaths and Death Rates
California, 2000-2003

	2000		Lower	Upper	2001		Lower	Upper
	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target		4.1				4.1		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	3,092	9.2	8.9	9.5	3,273	9.5	9.2	9.8
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	571	24.7	22.7	26.7	615	25.8	23.7	27.8
American Indian	9	DSU	-----	-----	13	DSU	-----	-----
Asian	131	3.3	2.7	3.9	132	3.2	2.7	3.8
Hispanic/Latino	887	7.6	7.0	8.1	967	7.9	7.3	8.4
Pacific Islander	16	DSU	-----	-----	8	DSU	-----	-----
White	1,467	8.4	7.9	8.8	1,523	8.7	8.2	9.1
Multirace	11	DSU	-----	-----	12	DSU	-----	-----
Gender								
Female	390	2.3	2.1	2.5	398	2.3	2.1	2.5
Male	2,702	16.5	15.9	17.2	2,875	17.1	16.4	17.7

	2002		Lower	Upper	2003		Lower	Upper
	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target		4.1				4.1		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	3,381	9.6	9.3	9.9	3,467	9.6	9.3	10.0
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	702	28.8	26.7	31.0	674	26.7	24.7	28.8
American Indian	22	8.7	5.0	12.3	11	DSU	-----	-----
Asian	141	3.5	2.9	4.0	158	3.9	3.3	4.5
Hispanic/Latino	1,001	7.5	7.0	8.0	1,081	8.0	7.5	8.5
Pacific Islander	13	DSU	-----	-----	12	DSU	-----	-----
White	1,485	8.4	7.9	8.8	1,492	8.4	7.9	8.8
Multirace	16	DSU	-----	-----	39	6.0	4.1	8.0
Gender								
Female	401	2.3	2.0	2.5	376	2.1	1.9	2.3
Male	2,980	17.2	16.6	17.8	3,091	17.4	16.8	18.0

SOURCES: CA Department of Health Services, Death Records, 2000-2003; CA Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity for California and Its Counties 2000-2050, May 2004.

NOTES: Firearm-related deaths defined by ICD-10 codes W32-W34, X72-X74, X93-X95, Y22-Y24, Y35.0.

¹ Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted using the 2000 US population standard; excludes death records with unknown ages.

DSU Data Statistically Unreliable due to small number of events.